

April 5, 1991

LB 199, 284, 303, 334, 343, 454, 511, 561
586, 685, 700

SPEAKER BAACK: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 561, LB 454, LB 343, LB 334, LB 303, LB 284, LB 199, LB 685, LB 586 and LB 700. Senator Beutler, on the Morrissey amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I've talked too long but I seem to be the only one on the other side of some of these things at this point in time. So I want to be sure and point out that this amendment means absolutely nothing, and the reason is essentially this, because it's telling the counties that they have to designate the area as a scenic river, have to have some kind of special controls, I don't know what. But, first of all, the Natural Resources Commission, under the bill, has no authority to say anything other than this vague direction to say they shall do something. But, beyond that, what they do can be minimal or nothing at all, barely anything. And if they do nothing at all, or barely anything, then the Natural Resources Commission has no power under the bill to require them to do anything more. And so I appreciate Senator Morrissey's effort to make this meaningful, but you and I well know that if a state agency has no real authority to make a local subdivision do something and if the local subdivision doesn't want to do it, the result will be that nothing will be done. And this all goes back to a matter of philosophy again but...and there are two different sides to this. But all I'm suggesting to you is that this amendment does nothing in terms of changing the balance of power. In effect, in the end even with this amendment, everything will be effectively controlled by the counties.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Is there anyone else wishing to discuss the Morrissey amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Morrissey, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, yeah, Senator Crosby asked me to explain it quickly again and I will. It turns the shalls...the "mays" into "shall", that they "shall" zone and they "shall" enter into agreement...into joint management agreements pursuant to the Interlocal. In other words, if we decide that this is a stretch of river that should be looked at, then, indeed, they should take steps to zone. Now Senator Beutler, obviously, doesn't agree that it's...it does much of anything. And I just took a brief look at the bill earlier and thought, well, if we're going to do it, we're going